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CITY OF CHICAGO
SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION

THE MOVEMENT FOR TREE PLANTING IN THE STREETS OF THE CITY

The City Ordinance Relating to the Planting, Preservation and Promotion of Trees and Shrubbery in the Streets and Functions of the City Forester.

Address Communications to
J. H. PROST, City Forester, 10th Floor City Hall
Telephones Main 447, Local 25

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THE TREE PLANTING MOVEMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CITY FORESTER.

The Street Tree Ordinance gives control of trees in the streets to the Special Park Commission, authorizes it to appoint a City Forester, who is to direct, assist and advise persons wishing to plant trees, and to have general charge of the care of trees in the streets.

Owing to the small appropriation placed at the disposal of the Forester by the City Council the work, for the present, must be confined to the supervision and direction of private effort, to the protection of existing trees by proper use of the permit issuing powers vested in the Forester, to the trimming of trees in need of attention, to the removal of dead trees, either by city employes or by interested citizens and improvement associations, to the encouragement of city-wide tree planting and preservation by means of illustrated talks and distribution of pamphlets informing the public on the subject of trees—what, when and how to plant them, and to the collection of information regarding trees existing in the city.

The commission believes that this branch of its work can be made very valuable in improving the appearance and increasing the attractiveness of the residence districts. To that end it asks the hearty co-operation of all public-spirited citizens.

The commission will furnish expert advice at any time to citizens planning the planting street trees, or shrubbery, and will be glad to receive information enabling it to prevent threatened violations of the ordinance, whether the violations relate to the carrying on of building operations without properly guarding the street trees, or the continued existence of gas leaks where trees are liable to be affected.

If a neighborhood or street improvement association desires advice on a plan for street planting the Commission will arrange to have the City Forester, or some other representative of the commission, consult with those having the matter in charge, or if practicable, address any meeting of property owners.

The Forester can be reached at the office of the commission, 10th Floor, City Hall.

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THE PLANTING, PRESERVATION, CONTROL AND CULTURE OF TREES AND SHRUBBERY IN THE PUBLIC STREETS.

Following is the ordinance passed by the City Council March 22, 1909:

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

SECTION 1. The Special Park Commission shall have full power and authority over all trees, plants and shrubs planted and to be planted in the streets and public highways of the City of Chicago, including the right to plant new trees and to care for the same, and to that end the said commission is authorized to appoint according to law a person to be known as City Forester, who shall be a man skilled and learned in the science of forestry, and whose duty it shall be, under the control and direction of the Special Park Commission, to superintend, regulate and encourage the preservation, culture and planting of shade and ornamental trees, plants and shrubbery in the streets and public highways of the City of Chicago; to prune, spray, cultivate and otherwise maintain such trees, plants and shrubbery, and to direct the time and method of trimming the same; to advise, without charge, owners and occupants of lots regarding the kind of trees, plants and shrubbery and the method of planting best adapted to, or most desirable on particular streets, and to take such measures as may be deemed necessary for the control and extermination of insects and other pests and plant diseases which may injuriously affect trees, plants or shrubs that are now growing or may be hereafter growing on the streets or public highways of the City of Chicago. He shall report to the Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago all cases which may come to his knowledge of violations of ordinances respecting such trees, plants and shrubbery.

SECTION 2. The City Forester shall, subject to such rules and regulations as the Special Park Commission may prescribe, keep a record of all transactions of his office and shall, whenever the Special Park Commission may require, make a full and detailed report of such transactions.

SECTION 3. The word "trees" as used in this ordinance shall not be construed to include shrubs which do not grow higher than fifteen feet, and the word "person" whenever used in this ordinance shall be construed to include individuals, firms and corporations.

SECTION 4. The salary of the City Forester shall be at the rate of two thousand dollars ($2,000.00) per annum, payable in equal monthly installments, in full for his services. He shall give a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) for the faithful performance of his duties, with not less than two good and sufficient sureties owning unencumbered real estate in the City of Chicago, or any responsible surety company, which bond shall be approved by the Mayor.

SECTION 5. The owner or owners of every lot or parcel of land in the City of Chicago upon which any tree or trees are now or may hereafter be standing shall trim or cause to be trimmed the branches thereof so that the same shall not obstruct the passage of light from any gas lamp or other light located in any street, alley or public highway in the City of Chicago to the adjacent street and sidewalk; and such owner or owners shall trim all branches of any tree or trees now or hereafter growing on their premises which overhang any street, alley or public highway, so that there shall be a clear height of ten feet above the surface of the street, alley or highway unobstructed by branches, and such owner or owners shall remove from such tree or trees all dead, decayed or broken limbs or branches that overhang such street, alley or highway, and when any of such trees are dead such owner or owners shall remove the same so that they shall not fall in the street, alley or public highway. Any person who shall fail to comply with any of the provisions of this section within fifteen days after notice from the City Forester of the particular thing to be done under this section shall be subject to payment of the fine designated in Section 18 hereof.

SECTION 6. No tree shall be planted in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago at a distance of less than twenty-five feet from any other trees standing in the same street, except by written permit of the City Forester, or at a distance of less than two feet from the established sidewalk line of said street.

SECTION 7. No shade or ornamental tree, plant or shrub shall be planted in any of the streets or public highways of the City of Chicago until the City Forester shall have first approved the kind and variety thereof and designated the location therefor and granted a permit for planting the same.

SECTION 8. No person shall, without the written permission of the City Forester, remove, destroy, break, cut,

deface, trim or in any way injure or interfere with any tree, plant or shrub that is now or may hereafter be growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to the removal, under the direction of the Board of Local Improvements, of any root, tree, shrub, or part thereof, wherever the same shall be found necessary in the construction of any sidewalk, sewer, pavement or other public improvement.

SECTION 9. No person shall hitch or fasten any horse or other animal to any tree or shrub, or to any device intended to protect any tree or shrub, now or hereafter growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago, nor shall any person cause or permit any horse or other animal to stand or be near enough to any tree, plant or shrub to bite or rub against, or in any manner injure or deface the same; nor shall any person place a post for the hitching of horses within five feet of any tree, plant or shrub now or hereafter growing in any of the streets or public highways of the City of Chicago, nor shall any person attach or place any rope, wire, sign, poster, hand bill or other thing on any tree or shrub now or hereafter growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago, or on any guard or protection of the same; nor shall any person deposit or throw upon any street, alley or public highway, or into any gutter thereof, any salt or salt water, or deposit in such gutter any receptacle containing salt or salt water.

SECTION 10. No person shall remove, injure or misuse any guard or device placed or intended to protect any tree, plant or shrub now or hereafter growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago.

SECTION 11. No person, firm or corporation owning, maintaining or operating any gas pipes or mains laid beneath the surface of any street, alley or public place in the City of Chicago shall permit any leak to occur in such pipes or mains within a radius of forty feet of any tree now or hereafter growing in any street or public place in said City, and in the event that a leak exists or occurs in any such pipe or main, it shall be the duty of the person, firm or corporation owning or operating such defective pipe or main to repair the same immediately and stop such leak in a manner so as to prevent a recurrence of the same after receiving a notice in writing from the City Forester calling the attention of such person, firm or corporation to the fact that such leak exists or has occurred and if such person, firm or cor-

poration fails within five days after the receipt of such notice to stop such leak in a manner so as to prevent a recurrence thereof, such person, firm or corporation shall be subject to the payment of a fine of not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars, and a separate offense shall be regarded as committed after each day during which such person, firm or corporation shall continue such violation.

SECTION 12. No person shall hereafter without the written permit of the City Forester, place or maintain upon the ground in any street or public highway in the City of Chicago, stone, cement or other material which shall impede the free passage of water and air to the roots of any tree now or hereafter growing in such street or public highway without leaving an open space of ground not less than two feet in width all around the trunk of such tree; and wherever there is no such open space about any existing tree in any street or public highway in the City of Chicago, the City Forester may make such open space or cause the same to be made; provided, however, that in making such open space the same shall not require the breaking or destroying of any part of any sidewalk or pavement already constructed; provided, further that nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring the City of Chicago in the construction of sidewalks to leave any open space around the trunk of any tree where such tree is planted or grows within the lines now or hereafter established as sidewalk lines, but provided, further that in the event that any such tree grows within a distance of less than one foot from the inner or outer established sidewalk line, then, and in that event the said sidewalk may be so constructed as to leave an open space of one foot in width around the trunk of such tree.

SECTION 13. In the erection, alteration or repair of any building or structure the owner or owners thereof shall place or cause to be placed such guards around all nearby trees in the street or public highway as shall effectually prevent injury to them.

SECTION 14. No person or corporation shall, without the written permit of the City Forester, attach any electric wire, insulator or any other device for holding electric wire to any tree now or hereafter growing in any street or public highway in the City of Chicago.

SECTION 15. Every person or corporation having any wire or wires charged with electricity shall whenever practicable securely fasten the same so that such wire or wires

shall not come in contact with any tree in any street or public highway in the City of Chicago.

SECTION 16. No person or corporation shall prevent, delay or interfere with the City Forester or his assistants in the planting, pruning, cultivating, spraying or removal of any tree, plant or shrub that is now or may hereafter be growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago, or in the removal of stone, cement or other material about the trunk of any tree that is now growing or may hereafter be growing in any street or public highway of the City of Chicago.

SECTION 17. Every permit granted by the City Forester shall specifically describe the work to be done under it and shall expire at the end of not exceeding 60 days from its date. No charge shall be made for any permit.

SECTION 18. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than $5.00 nor more than $100.00 for each offense.

SECTION 19. It shall be the duty of the City Forester to see that the provisions of this ordinance are obeyed and prosecutions for all violations of this ordinance shall be instituted by the City Forester and shall be prosecuted in the name of the City of Chicago.

SECTION 20. Sections 1432 and 1433 of the Revised Municipal Code of Chicago of 1905 and all other ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 21. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

By order of the Special Park Commission.

J. P. DUNNE,
Acting Secretary.

A. W. BEILFUSS,
Chairman.

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